

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

### **RS18958**

The purpose of this legislation is to provide for the authorization and regulation in Idaho of institutional telepharmacy services in order to provide pharmaceutical care to patients being treated in Idaho. This proposal defines the "practice of telepharmacy across state lines", restricts that concept to institutions and pharmacists outside Idaho providing services to patients within this state, and requires any such institutional drug outlets and its employees engaged in telepharmacy into Idaho to be registered. The cost of inspection and registration will be borne by the applicants and the process will be defined by Board of Pharmacy rules with successful applicants bound by Board disciplinary and other specific rules as the Board of Pharmacy will determine.

The Board of Pharmacy was planning to address telepharmacy within the next two to three years, but some issues have arisen recently that require addressing the telepharmacy issue sooner. A number of accrediting and federal regulatory agencies have instituted new regulations regarding "first order review" which could result in non-compliance for hospitals in Idaho, especially in Idaho's small rural hospitals where pharmacist shortages are most challenging.

This legislation will provide Idaho hospitals with additional options to provide appropriate care to their patients. Some Idaho hospitals are parts of systems based in other states and since their pharmacists are not licensed in Idaho, they cannot complete first order review from another system facility, taking away important cost saving measures and maximizing the appropriate use of hospital pharmacists.

### **FISCAL NOTE**

There will be no fiscal impact to the state general fund.

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